

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 6, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 6, 2008. Applicants have attached a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136, extending the statutory period until December 6, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

Applicants have submitted new claims 34-40 and respectfully submit that full support for such new claims can be found in at least the Abstract.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

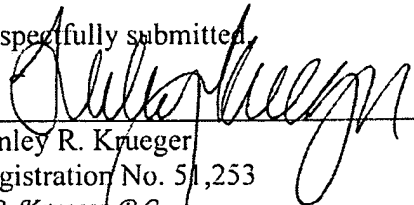
Claims 17-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants have cancelled claims 17-33, thereby obviating the rejection..

Claims 17-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over, U.S. Patent No. 6,566,460 (*Salmon*). Claims 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over, EP 0415427 (*Hottovy*). Claims 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over, U.S. Patent No. 3,152,872 (*Scoggin*). Claims 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over, U.S. Patent No. 6,319,997 (*Kendrick*).

The references of record do not teach, show or suggest the features recited in the pending claims. Specifically, none of the references teach, show or suggest passing the concentrated slurry from the flash vessel to a transfer vessel, measuring a level of polymer particles within the flash vessel, withdrawing an amount of polymer particles from the transfer vessel and passing the amount of polymer particles from the transfer vessel to a purge vessel, the amount adapted to maintain the level at a predetermined level, separating remaining diluent from the polymer particles within the purge vessel and recovering the polymer particles from the purge vessel. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tenley R. Krueger', is written over a horizontal line.

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